

CLAIMS

sub A1 1. A tampon having a removal cord comprising synthetic fibers, wherein the removal cord has an extensibility of greater than about 25 percent.

5 sub A1 2. The tampon of claim 1 wherein the cord extensibility is from about 30 to about 200 percent.

3. The tampon of claim 2 wherein the cord extensibility is from about 40 to about 6200 percent.

4. The tampon of claim 1 wherein the synthetic fibers are textured.

5. The tampon of claim 4 wherein the texture is helical.

6. The tampon of claim 4 wherein the texture is zigzag.

7. The tampon of claim 1 wherein the removal cord comprises from about 8 to about 25 cables.

8. The tampon of claim 7 wherein each cable comprises from about 30 to about 200 fibers.

9. The tampon of claim 1 wherein the synthetic fibers are nylon.

10. A tampon having a removal cord comprising textured synthetic fibers.

11. The tampon of claim 10 wherein the texture is helical.

12. The tampon of claim 10 wherein the texture is zigzag.

13. The tampon of claim 10 wherein the synthetic fibers are nylon.

sub A2 14. A tampon having a removal cord comprising synthetic fibers, wherein the removal cord has a two-phase, tensile stress-strain curve having an inflection point between a first and second phase.

Sub 15. The tampon of claim 14 wherein the first phase has a first Young's modulus and the second phase has a second Young's modulus.

16. The tampon of claim 15 wherein the second Young's modulus is greater than the first Young's modulus.

5 17. The tampon of claim 14 wherein the synthetic fibers are textured and stress in the first phase extends the synthetic fibers sufficiently to remove the texture.

18. The tampon of claim 17 wherein the texture is helical.

19. The tampon of claim 17 wherein the texture is zigzag.

20. The tampon of claim 14 wherein deformation of the synthetic fibers in the first phase is limited to elastic deformation.

21. The tampon of claim 14 wherein stress in the second phase is sufficient to impart plastic deformation of the synthetic fibers.

22. The tampon of claim 14 wherein the synthetic fibers undergo plastic deformation in the second phase.

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